



**Barry Bird**  
**Chief Counsel**

Barry Bird has served as Chief Counsel for the U.S. Economic Development Administration (EDA) within the U.S. Department of Commerce since January 2006. In this capacity, he is responsible for legal review of matters relating to EDA's statutory authority and works closely with the Office of General Counsel (OGC).

Prior to his appointment as Chief Counsel, Barry served for 25 years in the Office of the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation and Regulation within the Office of General Counsel at the Commerce Department. During that time, Barry handled a variety of legislative matters for the Department, including those relating to EDA.

Barry began his federal career when he joined the Office of Chief Counsel in EDA in October 1976 during a \$6 billion expansion of the agency designed to counter the recession of the late 1970's. Barry graduated from the University of Notre Dame, earned a Masters in Philosophy at Northwestern University, and a law degree from Georgetown University Law Center. He received the General Counsel's top "attorney of the year" award in 1990, 1995, and 2003 and a "team" Silver Medal award in 1997.